

SBC Restaurant Group, LLC

Good Afternoon, my name is David Rutigliano and I am an Executive Chef/Owner of the SBC Restaurant Group, LLC. I am here today to testify in opposition to SB 63, An Act Mandating Employers Provide Paid Sick Leave to Employees. We are a Connecticut company. My partners and I were all born here and live here. We have five locations in CT: Stamford, Fairfield, Milford, Branford and Hamden. We are also members of the CT Restaurant Association, and part of the Hospitality industry in CT. The hospitality industry is the largest employer in the state of CT, representing 150,000 jobs. Up until last year hospitality was, along with government, the only growing industry in CT.

The restaurant business is a unique and exciting business to be involved in. We offer potential employees a unique opportunity. We are also the industry to most often offer a job to a first time worker, new immigrant, single mom, student, or the part time second job that so many people need, and want.

That is why it is inconceivable to me and many others in the business community, that the legislature is proposing yet another job killing mandate.

Yesterday we attended a business conference in this same building where we learned:

- CT has lost 94,000 jobs so far since the recession began, and that number is expected to climb over 100,000
- 13,400 businesses have closed in 2009 alone
- We have the 4th highest minimum wage in the country, much higher than our neighboring states
- That we have managed to make CT the 4th costliest place to do business in the country
- And by far the most disturbing statistic was that given a choice 69% of current CT businesses would expand or relocate out of CT

Then we listened to several legislators discuss the need to create jobs, and attract new businesses to our state. Some of these ideas sounded good and at the very least was a good start to a long overdue conversation. And after all that what's the first message you have chosen to send to potential employers. Yet another mandate, yet another increase in costs. And I submit to you, yet another reason not to relocate here, start here, or stay here.

Thank you for your time.